superior to have the spotlight, gave full measure of loyal and intelligent service.

THE AMERICAN RECORD IN THE PHILIPPINES[8]

We may be too close to passing events to form a just estimate of the defects and merits of the American administration in the Philippines. Further, I may be prejudiced in favor of a government of which I formed a part, and may be inclined to look with too kindly an eye on errors of omission or commission. So for the benefit of some future historian, I will simply make an attempt to provide a rough inventory of the bad and good points of the government.

Tested by the colonial standards of other governments, the United States failed miserably in her Philippine adventure. In 1898 the United States was afforded an opportunity to give the Islands a good government, to develop their resources, and to eschew politics. Instead, ranking American officials encouraged the Filipinos to expect ultimate independence, gradually shifted control from American hands into inexperienced Filipino hands, and partially neglected economic development. The only adequate answer to criticism of this sort is to reiterate the platitude that the United States saw fit to set up a new ethical standard in dealing with a dependent people, to guide that people along the path to self-sufHciency, and to forswear American advantages.

As was to be expected, there were a few dark spots in the American record in the Philippines. That mistakes were made

is indubitably true. Some things have been done which might better have been left undone. Other things have been neglected. Errors of judgment expensive to the taxpayers were committed. Injustices and wrongs were occasionally perpetrated. All this is undeniable.

[8] **See Daniel R. Williams, *The Odyssey of the Philippine Commission* (1913),**
Ch. xvn.